



Actors Alia Bhatt and Aditya Roy Kapoor with designer Manish Malhotra as models present designer creations at the India Couture Week 2014 in New Delhi on Saturday.

— BUNNY SMITH

# Manish Malhotra portrays old world charm

NIVI SHRIVASTAVA

It seems like everything about couturier Manish Malhotra has to be larger-than-life. It may be the Bollywood effect that makes him so flamboyant with his imagination, but this golden boy surely knows how to turn sartorial dreams into reality.

On the fifth day of the ongoing India Couture Week 2014, a solo show, *Portraits*, by Manish Malhotra enthralled the capital with its grandeur and old-world charm.

An enormous hall filled with the fragrance of jasmine and dim yellow lighting, from candles and crystal chandeliers, welcomed

the audience at the Taj Palace Hotel. The showcase area witnessed a one-of-its-kind triple runway show, where approximately 60 ensembles were presented for both men and women.

The collection predominantly in gold and champagne colours, blended rich jewel tones of purple, emerald green, ruby red and royal blue to create a majestic look for the models. The raw silk *lehengas* and blouses for women and loose *khadi* trousers and *kurtas* for men were paired with heavily-embellished *bandh-gala* jackets and *achkans* (long, knee-length jackets).

The designer used vari-

ous Indian crafts like *chikankari*, *zardozi*, mirror-work, vintage gold *gota* and Kashmir's *kashida-kari* to highlight big borders and hem-lines of the ensembles.

His velvet jackets, net saris, silk *lehengas*, *shararas* and floor-length *anarkali* suits were accentuated with striking design elements like collars similar to turtle-necks for *achkans* and *bandhgala* jackets, gold-embellished cuffs and sleek neckline detailing. Blouses with Peter Pan collars, crop tops with three-fourth sleeves, asymmetric cuts in long jackets and body-flattering silhouettes were noteworthy.

SHREE RAJ MAHAL  
JEWELLERS

INDIA  
COUTURE  
WEEK

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Logix Group

After a long line-up of lavish *desi* bridal outfits, the showstoppers for Manish's show — Alia Bhatt and Aditya Roy Kapoor — walked in a typical filmy fashion and dis-



A model presents a creation by Manish Malhotra.

— BUNNY SMITH

played true-blue Indian bride and groom outfits.

Alia donned a bright red and gold *lehenga*, with heavy gold embroidery and ornamentation paired with a delicate net *dupatta*

and Aditya sported a beige gold embellished *sherwani* paired with loose *khadi* pants.

Talking about this collection, Manish, who wore his signature black *bandhgala* and slim-fit trousers, mentioned, "I love vintage gold and red colours and the ancient embroidery. And, when I blended them together, I created this line that looks like it is straight out of a portrait. The collection has something or the other that today's youth can wear at weddings or any traditional occasion. I kept the jewellery very light and only focused on the 'nose' ring, as that fascinates me a lot as a designer."